



Department of State

POL 14 Viet S
XR POL 15-2 Viet S

TELEGRAM

SECRET 314 POSS COPY

PAGE 01 SAIGON 12278 021258Z.

53

ACTION EA-2

INFO OCT-01 UPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-03 L-04

NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 JSIA-12 TO-16

AID-28 RSR-01 /137 H

R 031150Z AUG 71

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC #154
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Don J. Sweeney DATE 1/26/82

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

SECRET SAIGON 12278

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: FURTHER ANALYSIS OF LOWER HOUSE DISQUALIFICATIONS

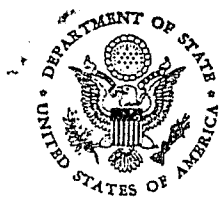
REF: A. SAIGON 12012; B. SAIGON 11442

1. SUMMARY. THE CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL FOR THE LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS REVERSED MOST OF THE DISQUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES BY THE LOCAL ELECTION COUNCILS, IN PARTICULAR APPROVING THE CANDIDACY OF OPPOSITION DEPUTY NGO CONG DUC AND A NUMBER OF OPPOSITION AN QUANG BUDDHIST HOPEFULS. THERE IS EVIDENCE THE EXECUTIVE ACTED TO BRING ABOUT THE DISQUALIFICATION OF SOME CANDIDATES ASSOCIATED WITH EXTREME LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS OR HAVING VC TIES. ONE SUCH CANDIDATE WHO WAS NOT DISQUALIFIED HAS NOW BEEN ARRESTED. HOWEVER, IN GENERAL THE PROSPECTS SEEM REASONABLY GOOD FOR A CREDITABLE ELECTION. (END SUMMARY)

2. REF A WAS OUR PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL (CEC) REVIEW OF DISQUALIFICATIONS BY LOCAL ELECTION COUNCILS. MOST NOTABLE WAS THE RESTORATION OF THE CANDIDACY OF WELL-KNOWN OPPOSITIONIST INCUMBENT NGO CONG DUC IN VINH BINH. LITTLE-KNOWN INCUMBENT NGUYEN VAN DAU, RUNNING IN MY THU CITY, WAS ALSO PERMITTED TO RUN, AS WAS STUDENT LEADER PHAM HAO QUANG, RUNNING IN SAIGON'S FIRST CONSTITUENCY. HOWEVER, THE CED MAINTAINED THE DISQUALIFICATION OF

SECRET

031150Z AUG 71



Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET

PAGE 12 SAIGON 12278 481258Z

THE STAUNCH OPPOSITION IN BINH THUAN PROVINCE, INCUMBENT
TRUONG GIA KY SANH AKA TRUC VIEN. [] THIS
DISQUALIFICATION IS PROBABLY JUSTIFIED. AFTER THE CEC DECISION
WAS ANNOUNCED SANH IMMEDIATELY TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE
WOULD APPEAL THE DECISION TO THE SUPREME COURT.
3. THE AN GIANG BUDDHISTS, WHO HAD FEARED MANY OF THEIR CANDIDATES
WOULD BE REJECTED, FARED QUITE WELL AS MOST OF THEIR CANDIDATES
DISQUALIFIED LOCALLY WERE ACCEPTED BY THE CEC. []

b-1
ec

[] TOLD US ONLY FOUR
AN GIANG CANDIDATES WERE DISQUALIFIED AND THEIR REJECTION WAS
JUSTIFIED UNDER THE LAW. THE STRONGEST BUDDHIST CANDIDATE WHO WAS
REJECTED, PHAM THE MY IN DAVANG, WAS DISQUALIFIED FOR DRAFT DOGBING.

4. [] PROVIDE EVIDENCE THAT THE EXECUTIVE MADE SOME EFFORT
TO BLOCK CANDIDATES CONNECTED TO THE PEOPLES FRONT STRUGGLING
FOR PEACE AND OTHER LEFTIST GROUPS COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE
NAME OF LEFTIST ACTIVIST (MRS.) NGO SA THANH. THE TWO CANDIDATES
MENTIONED IN [] HA THI CHANH IN PHONG DINH PROVINCE AND LE THI
DANG IN CAN THO CITY, WERE DISQUALIFIED BY THE LOCAL ELECTION
COUNCILS AND NOT REINSTATED BY THE CEC. SEVERAL OTHER CANDIDATES
ASSOCIATED WITH THESE LEFTIST GROUPS WERE ALSO DISQUALIFIED LOCALLY
AND WERE NOT REINSTATED BY THE CEC, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO DIRECT
EVIDENCE OF GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION TO ACHIEVE THIS RESULT IN
THESE CASES.

5. [] REPORTED THE EXECUTIVE WAS ENDEAVORING BY LEGAL MEANS TO
BLOCK THE CANDIDACIES OF FOUR CANDIDATES IN SAIGON AND GIA DINH
AGAINST WHOM THE GOVERNMENT HAD EVIDENCE OF VC CONNECTIONS. TRAN
LAN RUNNING IN GIA DINH PROVINCE FIRST CONSTITUENCY WAS DISQUALIFIED
BY THE LOCAL COUNCIL AND NOT REINSTATED. THE PLANNED LEGAL MANEUVER
REPORTED [] AGAINST PHAM VAN HI IN SAIGON SECOND CONSTITUENCY
AND NGUYEN-TAN A IN SAIGON FIRST CONSTITUENCY WAS APPARENTLY
SUCCESSFUL, AS BOTH WERE DISQUALIFIED BY THE CEC IN SPITE OF THEIR
ACCEPTANCE BY THE LOCAL COUNCILS. THE FOURTH CANDIDATE, NGUYEN
XUAN LAP, WAS NOT DISQUALIFIED. HOWEVER, HE WAS ARRESTED AUG 1,
ALLEGEDLY FOR LEADING A GROUP OF BUDDHIST STUDENTS CAMPAIGNING FOR
PRESIDENTIAL CHALLENGER DUONG VAN MINH PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE
OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN PERIOD. WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHETHER THIS ACTION WILL
BE INTERPRETED AS HARASSMENT OF LAP'S CANDIDACY FOR THE LOWER HOUSE.
6. LOCAL ELECTION COUNCILS DISQUALIFIED 118 CANDIDATES. OF THESE
107 APPEALED, AND THE CEC ALLOWED DISQUALIFICATION OF ONLY 44.
SINCE 11 DID NOT APPEAL, 55 WERE DISQUALIFIED OF THE 140 WHO
ORIGINALLY FILED. SO FAR THERE HAVE BEEN AT LEAST 18 WITHDRAWALS.

SECRET

031307030



Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET

PAGE 03 SAIGON 12278 081258Z

SO THE TOTAL LEFT IN THE RACE AT THIS POINT IS 1331 OR LESS.
7. COMMENT: IN GENERAL, THE CEC HAS DONE A CREDITABLE JOB IN
REVERSING DISQUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES BY LOCAL ELECTION
COUNCILS FOR POLITICAL OR PETTY REASONS, AND THE RESULTS OF THE
DISQUALIFICATION PROCESS NOW SEEM TO BE GENERALLY ACCEPTED AS
FAIR. THUS THE STAGE IS SET FOR A REASONABLY PROPER LOWER HOUSE
ELECTION, ALTHOUGH, OF COURSE, THE VARIOUS COMPETING FACTIONS
MAY RESORT TO UNFAIR PRACTICES, AND THE EXECUTIVE MAY BE TEMPTED
TO EMPLOY HEAVY-HANDED TACTICS TO INFLUENCE THE RESULTS, AT LEAST
IN SOME RACES.

BUNKER

SECRET

031320730